

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2426
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 5250

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJECT: P.W. BOTHA SLAMS SWAPO AND MARXISTS

1. SEPTEMBER 7 PRESS REPORTS GAVE MAJOR COVEAGE TO A SPEECH
AT THE ORANGE FREE STATE NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS BY
MINISTER OF DEFENSE P.W. BOTHA. ACCORDING TO THE CITIZEN,
BOTHA, SPEAKING AT A BLOEMFONTEIN PUBLIC MEETING, TOLD CONGRESS DELE-

GATE THAT THE ENEMIES OF SWA AND SOUTH AFRICA WANTED TO USE SWAPO TO
CREATE A MARXIST STATE ON THE BANKS OF THE ORANGE RIVER. BOTHA
WAS QUOTED AS CONTINUING, " IF THEY SUCCEED IN DOING THIS, THEY WILL
HAVE SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING CHAOS AND POVERTY TO THE HEARTLAND
OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIKE THEY HAVE DONE IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE."

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2. BOTHA REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THE WEST WANTED TO APPEASE SWAPO WHILE
BRANDING SOUTH AFRICA, THE TRUE PEACEKEEPER IN THE TERRITORY, AS THE
WRECKER OF PEACE. HE ALSO WAS REPORTED TO HAVE CHARGED THAT IN UN EYES,

SWA DID NOT BELONG TO ITS INHABITANTS, BUT TO SAM NUJOMA. HE
REFERRED TO THE LARGE SA INVESTMENT IN NAMI IA AND SIAD, " NOW SAM

NUJOMA WANTS TO COME ALONG AND CLAIM THIS AS A CHRISTMAS BOX.
I CAN ONLY SAY TO NUJOMA 'THAT WILL BE THE DAY'."

3. EARLY IN THE SPEECH BOTHA REPORTEDLY SAID A THIRD WORLD WAR HAD ALREADY STARTED AND THAT, ACCORDING TO THE DIE TRANSVALER ACCOUNT, THERE SHOULD BE NO MISTAKING MARXIST INTENT TO ABSORB SOUTHERN AND SOUTH AFRICA. DIE TRANSVALER QUOTES HIM AS DESCRIBING THE MARXIST PLAN AS " AN ATTEMPT FROM OUTSIDE TO IMPOSE A CERTAN WILL ON SOUTH AFRICA, TO GET INTERNAL SUPPORT FOR THIS ONSLAUGHT, AND TO DEPRIVE SOUTH AFRICA OF ITS SELF RESPECT."

4. REFERRING TO THE WALDHEIM PROPOSALS ON UN TROOP LEVELS IN NAMIBIA, BOTHA WAS QUOTED AT LENGTH: " IF THIS IS ACCEPTED, IT WILL MEAN A TOTAL TAKEOVER BY THE UNITED NATIONS OF SWA. WE ARE DETERMINED NOT TO HAND SWA OVER TO CHAOS AND MARXISM. WE WILL FIGHT THE CRUEL GODLESS TERRORISM AS EVIDENCED BY THE SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENT PEOPLE IN RHODESIA BY WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS COMING FROM THE POWERS OF HELL."

5. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE'S SPEECH WAS DESCRIBED BY THE RAND DAILY MAIL AS " THE FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ALLOW A SWAPO TAKEOVER IN SWA". DIE TRANSVALER CALLED THE SPEECH A STRONG WARNING THAT " SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER WITH THE WEST AND THE UN IF THAT MEANS HANDING OVER THE TERRITORY TO THE TERRORISTS."

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